You say that municipal grants are given without any principle. I may tell you that it is not so. One principle in awarding these grants is the extent to which the Municipalities help themselves. Another principle laid down by me is that, if a Municipality will look into a scheme relating to the health or improvement of the town in all its details, and submit practical proposals to Government, Government should see how far they can help the Municipality in the execution of the scheme.

Your suggestion that books on municipal health and municipal and civic amenities should be translated into the vernacular seems to be a good one. I shall bring it to the notice of the Public Lecture Committee and the Economic Development Board.

95. Some urgent needs of the town of Colachel.

Mr. N. Kunjen Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Colachel) observed that the Municipalities in Travancore could not be compared with those in British India where the surrounding villages were brought under municipal administration in the event of a particular Municipality being unable to find funds to meet its expenditure. Again, the minimum standard of population for the creation of a Municipal Council was 20,000. In Travancore, the conditions were different. The people were accustomed to village life and, if they lived in towns, it was out of necessity due to business connections, official and non-official. By transferring their residence to urban areas under these circumstances, the people were not benefited. It was, therefore, not possible for them to pay any increased rates of taxation usually levied by Municipalities elsewhere. Coming to the Colachel Municipal Council, the Member stated that the total population of that Municipality was only 8,000, of whom about one-half were living in huts and were, therefore, absolutely unable to pay house-tax or any other tax. The Council found it very difficult, with its extremely slender resources, to make both ends meet and stood in need of replenishment from the accumulated surplus of any of the neighbouring Municipalities or of increased grant from the Government.

The Member then spoke about the need for constructing a pier at Colachel. All the articles of export were now being sent either to Tuticorin or Cochin, which caused an additional expenditure of Rs. 2 to Rs. 2½ per cwt. in transport. There would be no harm in levying on the merchants and tradesmen a tax to the above amount, in the event of a pier being constructed. The argument that the Cochin Harbour Scheme, when carried out, would benefit them could not be maintained for the reason that their trade was solely with Colombo which was nearer Tuticorin than Cochin. The Member said that on a former occasion he had proposed to have cheap estimates for the pier and the Government also seemed to favour the idea and even took some steps in pursuance of that view. In the circumstances, the Member prayed that his proposal might not be held in further abeyance and that it might be put into execution ere long. Lastly, he brought to the notice of Government that the factories in Colachel were making labourers of tender age work from morning till evening at very low rates of wages. There was also no provision for attending to their health or for maintaining sanitation. It was high time that Government interfered and took steps to set matters right.

Dewan's reply.—You have touched on the general question of municipal taxation. The matter has been threshed out so often that I do not think that we are going to have any advantage by expatiating on it again. I have already enunciated the policy of Government in regard to finance. I do not want that every place should be raised to the level of a Municipality. If a place is not fit to be a Municipality, it should be taken out of the pale of municipal administration. You said that n British India only places having a population of 20,000 are Municipalities. This s wrong. In British India the minimum population for a Municipality is 10,000 in h e plains, but there are two or three towns where the population is even less, which a ve been converted into Municipalities for special reasons. Anantapur is a Municiality of that type. The population there is 7,000 only. A certain amount of money

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is necessary for managing a Municipality, and it must be presumed that the people of the locality are willing to pay it. The leaders must educate the rate-payers in municipal ways. If any of our Municipalities are not fit to continue as such, I have no objection to abolish them.

Member.—With regard to the shifting of the Magistrate's Court we have submitted a memorial.

Dewan.—Nothing has been settled.

In regard to the pier, an estimate has been received and the cost is found to be prohibitive. It is more than 2 lakhs of rupees. What we have to see is whether the trade statistics will justify such a large expenditure. We shall consider how your shipping facilities could be improved at a cheap cost. In Trivandrum materials have been received for extending the pier. But the trade in Trivandrum has not expanded. The question whether the materials obtained for the Trivandrum pier could be utilised at Colachel is engaging the attention of Government.

As regards the factories, the District Magistrates are Inspectors of Factories under the Factories Regulation, and it is their duty to inspect the factories and see whether any children are overworked or underpaid and, if so, to bring such cases to the notice of Government.

96. Some needs of the town of Kuzhittura.

Mr. P. C. Raman Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Kuzhittura) complained that Government were compelling Municipalities to increase their taxes, and that the Kuzhittura Municipal Council was sorry in that it had been called upon to explain the non-imposition of professional tax. The fact was that the Council at first resolved to levy it, but in view of strong opposition, it was postponed merely as a temporary measure of conciliation. He next requested that a Government hospital might be opened at Kuzhittura. It was an old request of the people of the taluk; it specially deserved to be granted, if the principle of talukwar expenditure of Government funds was to be acted upon. The Member then begged that either the toll-gate be removed from its present site, or that at least a portion of its collections be allowed to be credited to the funds of the Municipality.

Dewan's reply.—You say that the Government compel you to raise municipal taxes. Government only put certain aspects of the question of taxation for your consideration. There is no compulsion of any kind whatsoever. It is perfectly open to you to say whether you are going to raise a tax or not; but if you want any contribution from Government, you should convince them that you have done your best, and that yet you have not been able to obtain the required funds.

In regard to your prayer for a hospital, I said last year that there was a Mission hospital at Martandam as also a Government dispensary at Parassala and that, in the circumstances, it was not feasible to open a separate Government dispensary at Kuzhittura. We are asking the Mission hospital to enhance its utility, and this is being done by the Mission authorities, who have entered into an agreement with the Government for the purpose. If they fail to abide by the conditions of this agreement, it will be time for you to bring up the matter again.

In regard to the toll, I quite sympathise with you. The gate is in the centre of the town and it is a nuisance. The Chief Engineer says that the present site is the best one. I do not see how. I shall have it re-examined at a conference of the Peishkar and the Chief Engineer.

97. Neyattinkara Municipality and its needs.

Mr. P. Velayudhan Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Neyattinkara) said that year after year the extension of the limits of the Neyattinkara Municipality was being urged on the attention of the Government and that, in spite of this, their request had not been granted, even though the Council had passed resolutions on the subject and

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